

through said opening [exposed] for use.

16. (Amended) A cap assembly as set forth in claim 21 [15], said straw further comprising pleats so that said straw can bend over a base of said scored finger portion.

Please add the following new claim:

--20. (New) A cap assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein said cap is a scored finger portion. --

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending.

Claims 1-14 and 17-19 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended.

Claim 20 has been added.

Claims 15, 16 and 20 are hereby submitted for consideration.

No new matter has been added.

In response to the Office Action dated June 13, 2001 Species 8 relating to figures 9a and 9b and the claims readable thereon, namely, claims 15 and 16 were elected in the accompanying Response to Election Requirement. The remaining pending claims have been cancelled.

Claims 15 and 16 have been amended and claim 20 has been added. No new matter has been incorporated in these claims. As amended, claim 15 is generic to all of the species

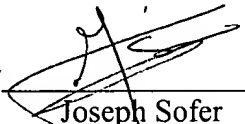
designated by the Examiner in the Office Action dated June 13, 2001.

The earliest possible favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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